

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



**Jami S.
Vault**

Jami S. Vault was promoted to English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum coordinator in the Hazelwood School District. She will be responsible for developing and executing the ELA curriculum strategies for more than 18,000 students

in grades k-12. She currently serves as the ELA secondary curriculum coach for the district.

Hazelwood School Custodial Director by Day . . . *Magician by Night!*



When Hazelwood School District Custodial Director Christopher Carpunky is not managing district buildings, he spends time entertaining children with magic tricks. He has performed hundreds of magic shows at libraries, schools, family reunions, churches, festivals and birthday parties.

Carpunky found himself inspired after watching a David Copperfield magic show on television. The same night he found himself at a local library checking out several books on magic.

He started teaching magic to individuals of all of ages at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville and at the time was the second youngest magician to teach magic at a University.

He also is one of the top performers in the St Louis and Riverbend area having more documented five star reviews than any magician in the entire St Louis Metro area.

Carpunky has been hired by McDonalds, Monsanto, St Charles Home Show, and many other corporations. He also appeared on Show Me St Louis, Fox 2 News, and has been featured in over 27 newspaper articles.

In 2010, Carpunky was asked by the NBC Network to audition on America's Got Talent in St Louis and was offered to be one of the first five auditions when the network came to St Louis. However, a month prior his wife had been diagnosed with a very rare stomach cancer and so he declined the offer to take care of his wife.

Carpunky has advice for aspiring magicians, "Practice, practice, practice because that's the most important thing in magic," said Carpunky.

Carpunky can be found on his social media page on Facebook, where he has over 1,500 followers, at Magician Chris Carpunky.

HSD Teacher Accepted to Supreme Court Summer Institute

Stacy Ray, a curriculum coordinator, in the Hazelwood School District, will travel to Washington, D.C. this June to attend the prestigious Supreme Court Summer Institute. After a highly competitive application process, 60 teachers were selected to participate this year. The Institute, open to teachers in the fields of law-related and civic education, is co-sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

The Institute offers teachers the opportunity to study recent U.S. Supreme Court cases in detail and learn innovative teaching methods for conveying this information to students. Well-known Supreme Court lawyers, reporters, scholars, and educators will be among the speakers and instructors for the Institute. Teachers will visit the Court to attend decisions and a reception.

A recent evaluation of the Supreme Court Summer Institute found that, after the program, teachers who attended (1) felt much more confident discussing controversial issues, and Supreme Court cases in their classrooms, (2) discussed Supreme Court cases and used interactive teaching strategies more frequently, and (3) gained critical knowledge about the Supreme Court.

Christian Activity Center teaches math skills to ESL youth

Plus, New Life
in Christ
awards \$23K
in scholarships

American staff

Thanks in part to a recent Wells Fargo Gives grant of \$10,000, Kindergarten through 5th grade youth of the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis will have access to degreed teachers, math software/games, and "manipulatives" like flash cards, clocks, etc.

Through the Everyday I'm Calculatin' Math Program, almost 200 youth learn grade-level math skills (counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and master advanced applications of these skills (fractions, time, money, etc.) afterschool during the school year and between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. this summer. The program provides small group and one-to-one instruction to remediate math skills and prevent summer slide in math skills. Additionally, staff works to increase the involvement of parents and caregivers in their child's math education.

"The Everyday I'm Calculatin' Math Program helps our kids close the gap between Common Core math expectations and their ability to perform math skills they should be learning in East St. Louis elementary schools," said Chet Cantrell, executive director.

"Children make decisions regarding their capacities to learn in elementary school — they need math competence and confidence. The Wells Fargo



Through the Everyday I'm Calculatin' Math Program, almost 200 youth at the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis learn grade-level math skills and master advanced applications of these skills.

Gives grant supports educator salaries and math software, which in addition to teaching the basics, make math learning fun."

By increasing math competence and confidence in the center's youth, the Wells Fargo's support of the Everyday I'm Calculatin' Math Program is also helping the Christian Activity Center meet its goal of high school completion and at least two years of post-secondary training or education for East St. Louis youth.

For more information, visit <https://www.cacesl.org>.

New Life in Christ awards scholarships

New Life in Christ Interdenominational Church in O'Fallon, Illinois awarded scholarships totaling \$23,000 to nine area high school

graduates during its 15th annual Celebration of Education Worship Service on Wednesday, May 30.

The event, which will be held in the church's newly expanded sanctuary, also recognizes New Life members who are graduating from high school, college and graduate school as well as those transitioning from elementary and middle school.

"As college tuitions continue to rise, parents and students are often burdened with finding financial solutions to cover costs," said Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley Sr., New Life in Christ's senior pastor. "Our congregation appreciates the opportunity to recognize academic excellence while also providing financial assistance for college bound students."

Nearly 50 students from across the St. Louis region

applied for the scholarships. The nine recipients were chosen based on their high academic achievement and their ability to demonstrate a love for serving others as well as their communities. To date, \$246,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

The 2018 New Life in Christ scholarship recipients are:

- Anya Jones, Alton High School, Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence, \$5,000, attending University of Kansas
- Emmanuel Brown, SIUE/ East St. Louis Charter School, John H. McCants Hope Scholarship, \$5,000, University of Indianapolis
- Hannah Teverbaugh, Belleville Township High School East, Bishop Leamon and Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500, Xavier U.
- David Walter, Hazelwood East High School, Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500, Purdue University
- Jazmine Brown, Althoff Catholic High School, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, Eastern Illinois U.
- Millenia Wells, Mascoutah High School, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, attending University of Illinois
- Huey Dunomes, Belleville Township High School East, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, undecided
- Bailey Conner, Belleville Township High School East, The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, attending University of Alabama, and
- Brittney Glover, Belleville Township High School East, The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, attending Murray State University.

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School of Character



Brown Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District received the School of Character Honorable Mention award for the second year in a row. Schools of Character are recognized for their efforts to positively shape the social, emotional, and character development of students.

Pictured: Counselor, **Kenneth Woods**; 5th Grade Teacher, **Pete Kain**; Reading Specialist, **Darnetta Wafford**; Instructional Specialist, **Chris Spanberger**; Principal, **Marvin Talley**

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